

COUNTY COURT USES OVER \$5,000 OF COUNTY FUNDS TO PAVE STREETS OF MANNINGTON--- ANOTHER HIGH-HANDED DEAL PUT OVER BY THE DEMOCRATIC OFFICE HOLDERS TRUST SYSTEM

Following Violation of Law in Sale of Road Bonds at \$28,000 Discount—Another Raw Deal is Put Through.

Orders on County Fund for \$5,533.44 Have Already Been Issued for the Work—Tax Payers of County Pay the Bills.

Charges of Graft Have Not Been Either Investigated or Denied—Tax Payers Said to Have Lost Many Thousands of Dollars in Use of Cheap Material on Road Work.

That the Marion County Court seems to believe that the State laws were not made for its guidance was shown when it completely ignored the law and sold the Mannington and Fairmont district road bonds below par in direct violation of law, and at a loss to the tax payers of these districts of \$28,000, which was the tidy sum the Ohio bankers made in the deal, but there is still greater evidence that the County Court is a law sufficient unto itself, and that is the fact that it has paved the streets of Mannington at the expense of the tax payers of the entire county.

A contract was let for this paving to The French-Allen Construction Company and the work paid for out of the county fund. On Oct. 6, 1914, order No. 624, amounting to \$2,183.23 was allowed this company for part of this work, and on Nov. 5, 1914, another order, No. 882, amounting to \$2,350.21, was allowed them, making a total of \$5,533.44.

The contract was let on Sept. 5 for this work, the Court ordering that the streets of the city be paved and paid for out of the county fund.

This is another outrage upon the tax payers of Marion county, and if there was ever a good reason for a recall the County Court of this county has furnished it. The tax payers should enjoin the sheriff from paying these orders, if they have not already been paid, and force the members of the County Court to make good this contract on their official bonds.

If members of the County Court are permitted to go on unmolested in their wilful disregard for law, why not destroy the law books and let the bosses and grafters run the county's business with the high-handed methods of the feudal despots of ancient times?

We have had the spectacle of this Democratic County Court openly and flagrantly violating the laws of the state in road matters, selling bonds below par that the law says shall not be sold at a discount, and now we find them applying county funds unlawfully to the improvement of a district municipality.

The charge has been made, and never denied, that those in charge of the road work in Mannington district and who

are being paid by the county, are also being paid regular monthly salaries by the road contractors.

The West Virginian demanded an investigation of these charges, but none has been made and no denial has been made except from a few of the contractors, who were not at all implicated, and in the refusal of the County officials, who are paid and sworn to protect the tax payers, to investigate these charges, we find the best possible evidence that the charges are true.

The charge has been made, and never denied, that inferior materials were being used in the construction of these roads, and that the tax payers were being defrauded of thousands of dollars in this manner.

The charge has been made, and never denied, that a 17 year old, inexperienced boy was employed as inspector on the Fairmont district road work—\$400.000 road job for political purposes.

These charges reflect upon the honor and integrity of the county officials who have had this work in charge, and their refusal to deny or investigate them points the finger of suspicion to a well planned system of graft and many believe that the toll the tax payers will pay on this work will amount to something like \$100,000, including the loss of the \$28,000 in the sale of the bonds. Where the other \$75,000 goes to is yet a matter of speculation.



THE WEATHER—West Virginia—Fair tonight and Wednesday. Not much change in temperature. Western Pennsylvania—Fair tonight and Wednesday. Probably snow flurries near Lake Erie.

- READ THE WEST VIRGINIAN
- It is on sale each evening at the following places:
- FAIRMONT:
- Fairmont News Agency, Monroe street.
 - Marion News Agency, Main street.
 - A. G. Martin's News Agency, Main street.
 - J. H. McCleskey, Drug Store, Locust avenue.
 - Hamilton Drug Co., Tenth street.
 - Moran and Springer, Water street.
 - J. B. Rose, Main St. and Parks avenue.
 - Holt's Novelty Store, Main street.
 - Clarence Fisher, Grocer, Market and Columbia St., First ward.
 - Howard C. Cunningham, Grocer, Morgantown Ave., near Owens' Works.
- MANNINGTON
- Smith and Millan News Agency.
- FAIRMONT
- F. G. Gray, Grocer.

Chicago's Model Policeman Quits

By Associated Press.] CHICAGO, Dec. 15.—After 32 years of service, Wm. S. McGuire, who is called Chicago's model policeman, resigned from the force today. He is declared to be the wealthiest man on the force and is reputed to own property valued at more than \$100,000. McGuire is planning to spend the winter on his country place at Palm Beach, Fla.

Atlanta Lawyer Is Killed by Burglar

By Associated Press. ATLANTA, Ga., Dec. 15.—Chas. B. Reynolds, a lawyer, was shot and almost instantly killed today in a revolver battle with a burglar in his home here. Reynolds fired four times before he was killed. The burglar escaped.

2 Newspaper Plants Burn at Elizabeth

By Associated Press. PARKERSBURG, W. Va., Dec. 15.—Fire of unknown origin early today caused a damage of \$35,000 in the business section of Elizabeth, county seat of Wirt county. Among the establishments destroyed were two newspaper plants.

Turkish Troops Aiding Teuton Allies



COMMERCE BOARD GRANTS 5 PER CENT. RATE INCREASE

THE VOTE WAS TAKEN SATURDAY AND IT WILL PROBABLY BE OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED NEXT SATURDAY.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—From an official whose knowledge of the situation is believed to be unquestionable it was learned that the last serious opposition to an increase in freight rates on the Eastern railroads was removed and the Interstate Commerce Commission formally voted to permit the 5 per cent advance.

Announcement of the decision will be made within ten days, probably next Saturday afternoon. The Commission's practice in the past has been to make public in its rulings at such times in order that business men may be given an opportunity to digest them.

Under Consideration Long. The increase in rates now declared to have been allowed has been under consideration for eighteen months. The first application was made in May, 1913, and was denied. A month later the Commission, on its own initiative, ordered an investigation into the conditions on which the railroads based their claim to consideration. It was begun and continued for the ensuing year.

On July 29 last, just as the first days of the European war were working havoc with the financial markets of the world, the Commission denied the application so far as it concerned trunk line or Eastern rates, rail and lake rates and international rates in official classification territory. Increases were allowed in Central Freight Association territory, but the conditions complained of chiefly by the railroads were not materially affected.

On September 19 the Commission granted a petition for a rehearing, which was held without delay. Without in any wise offering suggestions to

Roumania Is Purchasing War Supplies

By Associated Press. CHICAGO, Dec. 15.—Roumania has entered the American field for the purchase of war supplies, according to information reaching Chicago merchants today. The country, although not a belligerent in the European war, has sent a commission here to place orders for arms, ammunition and cotton and sanitary supplies to cost \$10,000,000.

Life Term Is Released

HAD BEEN SENTENCED TO SERVE EXTREME PENALTY FOR STEALING A HAM.

By Associated Press. LANSING, Mich., Dec. 15.—Governor Ferris has ordered the parole of Michigan's most widely known prisoner, Lewis Oliver, a lifer in Marquette, known as the man who was sentenced for life for stealing a ham. Oliver was sent to Marquette by Judge Wyant under the habitual criminal act. It was Oliver's third conviction for burglary.

Roy Stewart, of Mannington, was a visitor in the city yesterday.

2 More Days Of Cold Weather Is Predicted

DROP IN TEMPERATURE GENERALLY EAST OF THE MISSISSIPPI.

By Associated Press. WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—Two more days of cold weather for the eastern section of the country was predicted today by the weather bureau. The coldest weather of the season thus far prevailed today generally east of the Mississippi river and in the Northwest. Below zero temperatures were reported from West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and the North-west, while below freezing temperatures were reported from all other states east of the Mississippi as far South as Florida and East Gulf states.

By Associated Press. CONNELLSVILLE, Pa., Dec. 15.—A temperature of 15 degrees below zero was reported in the mountains west of here today.

Bootlegger In County Jail

FRANK ROLLINS, COLORED, IS CAUGHT WITH WET GOODS IN HIS SUIT CASE.

After a search of several weeks the prohibition officers succeeded today in landing in the county jail Frank Rollins, a negro, who has obtained notoriety in the last few weeks as a bootlegger.

Rollins was arrested this morning just after he stepped from the train at the B. & O. passenger station by B. & O. Officer Ice, who immediately turned the negro over to the county authorities. Rollins had a large suitcase with him at the time of his arrest. This was searched by Constable Riggs and found to contain two one-gallon jugs of whiskey which the negro had just brought from Point Marion.

Rollins, who is better known as the "Overalls Kid," has been wanted for some time by the county officials, as it was known that he was engaged in the peddling of liquor not only among the people of his own color but white people also. He has been very successful in evading the officers up until this time. He was placed in the county jail to await a hearing before Justice Fleming which will be given him in a few days.

NOTICE OWLS!

There will be Election of Officers on Thursday, Dec. 17, 1914. All members are requested to be present. W. H. RANDOLPH, Sec.

THE GERMANS HAVE BEGUN A RETREAT IN WEST FLANDERS

Col. Roosevelt May Be Called As A Witness

EX-PRESIDENT MAY BE CALLED BEFORE THE HOUSE NAVAL COMMITTEE.

By Associated Press. WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—Colonel Roosevelt loomed up today as a possible witness before the House Naval Committee in its discussing of the preparedness of national defenses. At today's session Representative Hobson pressed Chairman Padgett to call the former President and after some discussion the question was left to be decided in an executive session of the committee. "Why invite him," demanded Representative Butler. "He's been assistant secretary of the navy and President, a commander in chief, and has been in a position to know the facts about national defense." Returned Mr. Hobson, who protested that his suggestion was being treated in a "cavalierly" way.

Wants More Information

PRESIDENT WILSON HAS NOT DECIDED TO COMPLY WITH GOETHALS REQUEST.

By Associated Press. WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 15.—More information is being awaited before President Wilson decides whether the request of Gov. Goethals for destroyers to enforce neutrality at Panama, shall be granted. Suggestions of differences between Secretaries Garrison, Daniels and Bryan over the question were met by President Wilson with the statement that there could be no real difference since he would finally decide.

German Converted Cruiser at Guam

By Associated Press.] WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—The arrival of the German converted cruiser Cormoran in the harbor of Guam, an American possession in the Ladrones archipelago, was officially reported to the navy department today by the commanding officer of the naval station there. It is presumed that the German vessel sought the harbor to intern during the war.

The Cormoran has been given 24 hours from 10 a. m. yesterday in which to leave the port or intern for the war. She was short of coal, provisions and water. The Cormoran needed 1,500 tons of coal to reach the nearest German port, according to Captain Maxwell.

She was offered 100 tons of coal and fresh water and her captain was given until 10 a. m. today to decide what his future course would be. Secretary Daniels has approved Captain Maxwell's action and has instructed him not to allow the vessel more coal and provisions than can be properly spared.

R. R. Charged With Violating Liquor Law

TOLEDO, O., Dec. 15.—District Attorney Denham brought 30 cases for action against the New York, Chicago and St. Louis railroad into Federal court today, charging violations of the interstate law, as to the number of hours that trainmen may be worked. He alleges that, on two days the railroad worked 30 men approximately 18 hours each day. He asks the court to fine the defendant.

BRITISH COMMANDER PUSH THEIR HEADQUARTERS FURTHER EASTWARD.

FRANCO-AUGUSTAN TROOPS HAVE MADE MORE PROGRESS THAN THAT CHRONICLED.

SERBIAN SUCCESS MAY HAVE IMPORTANT BEARING IN EASTERN ARENA.

LONDON, Dec. 15.—The statement issued today by the British official information bureau concerning the combined attack by the allies yesterday against the German line was interpreted in some quarters as marking the beginning of the much discussed attempt to make a general advance. The point of the combined attack mentioned in the statement is to the south of Ypres. It will be noticed more over that the statement refers to fighting in northern France as well as Belgium. This is taken to mean that the offensive movement stretches over a considerable area. It has been known for some time that the British army headquarters has been pushed toward the eastward, and it consequently assumed by British observers that the allies have made more progress than has been chronicled. The occupation of Belgrade by the Serbians may soon have an important bearing on the situation in the east should it compel the Austrians to make a vigorous defense campaign along their own borders to prevent a Serbian invasion. The definite statement is made in Rotterdam that the Germans have begun a retreat falling back in Belgium toward a prepared line further from the Coast. Official confirmation was lacking, however.

Meat Dealers Must Label Beef Sausage

NEW CASTLE, Pa., Dec. 15.—Prohibitors of meat markets in this city hereafter must label their meat products properly or stand prosecution. Dr. H. C. Harper, city health officer, has found that much so-called "pure pork sausage" contains beef, and demands that it be labeled accordingly.

Chicago's New Year's To Be Tamed Down

CHICAGO, Dec. 15.—Noise making instruments, confetti and other disturbing devices will be barred from Chicago's streets New Year's eve, but persons desiring to celebrate may shout or sing to their hearts' content. This announcement was made by Mayor Harrison today and was accompanied by a statement that cafes and restaurants could dispense liquor only up to 1 a. m.

Lafayette College Has New President

EASTON, Pa., Dec. 15.—Dr. John Henry MacCracken, professor of political philosophy at New York University, was today elected president of Lafayette College. He succeeds Dr. E. D. Warfield, who resigned some time ago. The new president is a son of H. D. MacCracken, formerly chancellor of New York University, and was at one time head of Westminster College, Missouri.

800 MINERS CUT OFF BY EXPLOSION

By Associated Press. TOKIO, Japan, Dec. 15.—An explosion occurred today in a coal mine at Fukuoka, as a result of which 800 laborers are imprisoned in the workings of the mine. Fukuoka is on the sea coast, 65 miles north of Nagasaki.

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS.

City taxes are now due and payable at the office of the Treasurer. During December only no interest will be charged. After December 31, 1914, interest will be charged on all unpaid taxes. Taxes will be collected as soon as possible by the Treasurer after January 1, 1915.

Why not call at the office now, save your interest and a visit from the Treasurer. J. R. MILLER, Treasurer.

1 CARAT PERFECT BLUE WHITE
DIAMOND IN TIFFANY MOUNTING

\$250.00 AT SCOTT'S